Committee for evolving strategy and continuous monitoring against cheap form and other imports into the country;

(b) if so, by when Government are going to constitute such a Committee; and

(c) the steps Government have taken so far or proposed to take for better negotiations at the next round of talks on WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal before the Government for setting up of such a National Committee. However, the Government has constituted an inter Ministerial Standing Group consisting of Commerce Secretary, Revenue Secretary, Secretary (SSI and ARI), Secretary (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying), Secretary (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) and Director General of Foreign Trade. This group has been formed for tracking, collating and analyzing import data of 300 sensitive items.

(c) India is of the view that our concerns in relation to implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements must be addressed before any new issue for negotiation is taken up by WTO. Towards that end, a group of developing countries including India has already submitted detailed proposals. India is also of the view that any new issue for negotiations may be taken by WTO, only when there is convergence of views among the WTO members on its inclusion.

Special monitoring of import items

2453. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to adopt a new strategy to maintain export growth momentum in the country;

(b) whether Government have identified any import items where special monitoring is required; and

(c) if so, the details of those items that Government have identified and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Government is in the process of formulating a medium term export strategy which focuses on examination of the import baskets of major trading partners of India to identify potential items of

exports. The strategy would examine the country and commodity specificities of our major exports along with macro issues affecting India's exports, and sector specific strategies.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has identified 300 sensitive items where special monitoring is required. These items include agricultural commodities (including animal husbandry and dairy products), alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, rubber and its products, silk, marbles/granites/ceramics and their products thereof; motor vehicles, toys, writing instruments etc. In this context an Inter-Ministerial Standing Group consisting of the Commerce Secretary, Revenue Secretary, Secretary (SSI and ARI), Secretary (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying), Secretary (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) and the Director General of Foreign Trade has been constituted for tracking, collating and analyzing import data of these 300 sensitive items. Based on the analysis of imports of the sensitive items for the period April-June, 2001, the group has concluded that the imports indicate normal trading activity in response to demand and supply factors and that the present tariff structure and other steps are adequate to prevent any surge in imports.

Indo-Pak mechanism for tackling anti-dumping duties

2454. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Joint Indo-Pak Panel proposed to evolve a mechanism to face problems of anti-dumping duties on their products imposed by the developed countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to form a Joint Indo-Pak Panel to evolve a mechanism to face problems in respect of imposition of anti-dumping duties on their products by developed countries.

Refusal by European retailers for buying Indian leather products

2455. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that European retailers have refused to buy Indian leather products as reported in Times of India dated the 5th July, 2001;